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Texts and Contexts of the Oldest Runic Inscriptions



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28. Neudingen-Baar II (Baden-Württemberg, Germany). In the Museum für Ur- und Frühgeschichte 'Colombischlössle', Freiburg. A wooden stave belonging to a weaving loom, dated 6th c. Found in 1979 in a woman's grave (cf. Opitz 1982;481–490). The runes are clearly legible: lbi:imuba:hamale:blipgup:uraitruna

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The final two words in the inscription are without division marks. **Ibi** is probably short for **I**[iu]**bi**, a feminine abstract adjective with nominative ending *ī*, *īn*-stem, 'love'.

imuba is a PN, nsf. ō-stem, Imuba, maybe connected with Im-, Em- from Irmin-, Ermin- (Förstemann 1966:949), or Irm- (Kaufmann 1965:139ff.). hamale is also a PN, dsm. a-stem 'to Hamal', the name-element ham- may point to a soldier in arms, according to Förstemann (1966:743).

bliþguþ is a third PN, nsf. jō-stem, Blīþgu(n)th, the name-element Blīði- means 'glad' (Förstemann 1966:313), for the second name-element -gu(n)þ see above Eichstetten, nr. 15.

urait = wrait, 3 sg. pret. ind. 'wrote', Gmc. *wrītan. Freilaubersheim, above, nr, 18, has: wraet and Weingarten I, nr. 49: writ. Pforzen II, nr. 57, has urait.

runa apf. ō-stem, runā 'the runes'.

'Love, Imuba for Hamal, Blipgunp wrote (the) runes'. It is noteworthy that in this case it is a woman who wrote the runes; there are only a few other inscriptions in which this fact is stated.